

—Fig. 9 is an enlarged plan view of a portion of the system shown within the circular area "E" in Fig. 7; and —

Please insert the following paragraph at page 6, before line 10:

--Fig. 10 is an isometric view of a vehicle, e.g., a truck, having the system of Fig. 1 located in its body.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claim 1 with the following:

1. (Amended) A system for suspending a load over a floor, said system comprising a first, second, third, and fourth elongated, enclosed, hollow tracks, plural elongated cross members, a plurality of trucks, and a plurality of generally U-shaped hangers, each of said tracks including a longitudinally extending slot, each of said hangers having a downwardly extending leg, an intermediate section and an upwardly extending leg, said first and second tracks being disposed parallel to each other over the floor, said third and fourth tracks being disposed parallel to each other and interconnected by at least one of said cross members to form a runway frame, a first one of said trucks being located within said first track and arranged to move along the interior of said first track, a second one of said trucks being located within said second track and arranged to move along the interior of said second track, said first truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of a first of said hangers, with a portion of said first hanger passing through said slot in said first track, said upwardly extending leg of said first hanger being connected to said third track to support said third track beside and parallel to said first track, said second truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of a second of said hangers and an elongated bridge member adapted to have the load coupled thereto for suspending the load over the floor, said elongated bridge member being connected between said third and fourth tracks, with a portion of said second hanger passing through said slot in said second track, said upwardly extending leg of said second hanger being connected to said fourth track to support said fourth track beside and

parallel to said second track, whereupon said runway frame is disposed horizontally between said first and second tracks and can be slid in a horizontal plane from a retracted position to an extended position and vice versa.

Please replace Claim 3 with the following:

3. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein said elongated bridge member is connected transversely between said third and fourth tracks.

Please replace Claim 4 with the following:

4. (Amended) The system of Claim 3 additionally comprising fifth and sixth trucks, and fifth and sixth hangers, and wherein said elongated bridge member comprises a pair of ends, said fifth truck being located within said third track and arranged to move along the interior of said third track, said fifth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said fifth hanger, with a portion of said fifth hanger passing through said slot in said third track, said upwardly extending leg of said fifth hanger being connected to one of said ends of said bridge member, said sixth truck being located within said fourth track and arranged to move along the interior of said fourth track, said sixth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger, with a portion of said sixth hanger passing through said slot in said fourth track, said upwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger being connected to the other of said ends of said bridge member, whereupon said bridge member can be slid in a horizontal plane to various longitudinal positions along said runway frame.

Please replace Claim 5 with the following:

5. (Amended) The system of Claim 2 wherein said elongated bridge member is connected transversely between said third and fourth tracks.

Please replace Claim 6 with the following:

6. (Amended) The system of Claim 5 additionally comprising fifth and sixth trucks, and fifth and sixth hangers, and wherein said elongated bridge member comprises a pair of ends, said fifth

truck being located within said third track and arranged to move along the interior of said third track, said fifth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said fifth hanger, with a portion of said fifth hanger passing through said slot in said third track, said upwardly extending leg of said fifth hanger being connected to one of said ends of said bridge member, said sixth truck being located within said fourth track and arranged to move along the interior of said fourth track, said sixth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger, with a portion of said sixth hanger passing through said slot in said fourth track, said upwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger being connected to the other of said ends of said bridge member, whereupon said bridge member can be slid in a horizontal plane to various longitudinal positions along said runway frame.

Please replace Claim 8 with the following:

8. (Amended) The system of Claim 4 wherein each of said trucks includes plural wheels for rolling along the interior of the track in which it is located.

Please replace Claim 9 with the following:

9. (Amended) The system of Claim 6 wherein each of said trucks includes plural wheels for rolling along the interior of the track in which it is located.

Please add the following claim:

13. The system of Claim 1 additionally comprising a hoist mounted on said elongated bridge member for suspending the load over the floor.

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 13 remain in this application, with Claims 1, 3 - 6, 8 and 9 having been amended and new Claim 13 added to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Accompanying this Amendment is a complete set of formal drawings to be substituted for the informal drawings filed with the application.

All of the claims of this application were objected, but were indicated as being allowable if Claim 1 was rewritten to include the limitations of "an elongated movable bridge member having a hoist for suspending said load over the floor, said bridge member having trucks mounted on opposed ends thereof, said trucks being respectively mounted for movement in said third and fourth tracks."

In a telephone interview with Examiner Werner on July 2, 2002, the undersigned discussed the amendment of Claim 1. In particular, the undersigned submitted that the limitation suggested by Examiner Werner is too limiting and not required for patentability. Instead, the undersigned adding the limitation: "an elongated bridge member adapted to have the load coupled thereto for suspending the load over the floor, said elongated bridge member being connected between said third and fourth tracks," to accomplish the ends sought by Examiner Werner. Examiner Werner agreed to that proposed language. During that interview the undersigned stated that he intended to make a few changes in some of the dependent claims to render them consistent with amended Claim 1, and that a new dependent Claim 13 would be added to call for one of the limitations suggested by Examiner Werner. Exr. Werner was agreeable to such action and stated that he would prepare an Examiner Interview Summary Record form memorializing the conversation.

The applicant and the undersigned are most appreciative of the courtesies extended to the undersigned by Examiner Werner in the telephonic interview.

The subject Amendment formally makes the changes discussed with Examiner Werner in the telephone interview.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

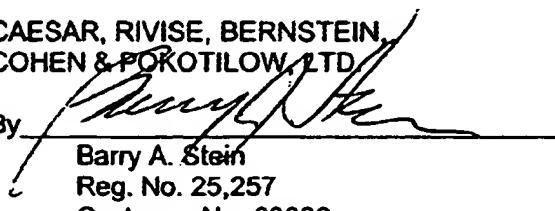
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 - 13, all of the claims now appearing in this application, are allowable and such favorable action is respectfully requested.

In the event that the foregoing amendment does not result in the allowance of this application and there is(are) any issues which need to be resolved, the undersigned respectfully requests that Examiner Werner give the undersigned a telephone call to try and resolve any such outstanding issue(s).

Respectfully submitted,

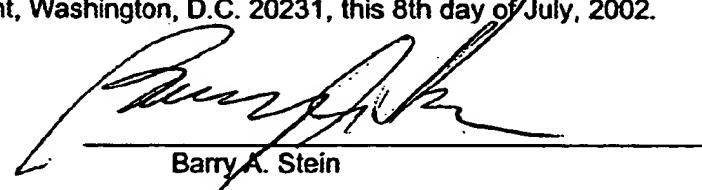
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing AMENDMENT, Transmittal Letter and ten (10) sheets of formal drawings re Application Serial No. 09/896,987, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box Non-Fee Amendment, Washington, D.C. 20231, this 8th day of July, 2002.


Barry A. Stein

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 6, line 7, delete "and"

Page 6, line 9, delete "." and insert --; and--

Page 6, insert the following paragraph before line 10:

--Fig. 10 is an isometric view of a vehicle, e.g., a truck, having the system of Fig. 1 located in its body.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite Claim 1 as follows:

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said second hanger passing through said slot in said second track, said upwardly extending leg of said second hanger being connected to said fourth track to support said fourth track beside and parallel to said second track, whereupon said runway frame is disposed horizontally between said first and second tracks and can be slid in a horizontal plane from a retracted position to an extended position and vice versa.

Please rewrite Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 [additionally comprising an] wherein said elongated bridge member is connected transversely between said third and fourth tracks.

Please rewrite Claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The system of Claim 3 additionally comprising fifth and sixth trucks, and fifth and sixth hangers, and wherein said elongated bridge member comprises a pair of ends, said fifth truck being located within said third track and arranged to move along the interior of said third track, said fifth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said fifth hanger[s], with a portion of said fifth hanger passing through said slot in said third track, said upwardly extending leg of said fifth hanger being connected to one of said ends of said bridge member, said sixth truck being located within said fourth track and arranged to move along the interior of said fourth track, said sixth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger, with a portion of said sixth hanger passing through said slot in said fourth track, said upwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger being connected to the other of said ends of said bridge member, whereupon said bridge member can be slid in a horizontal plane to various longitudinal positions along said runway frame.

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8. (Amended) The system of Claim_4 wherein each of said trucks includes plural wheels for rolling along the interior of the track in which it is located.

Please rewrite Claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) The system of Claim_6 wherein each of said trucks includes plural wheels for rolling along the interior of the track in which it is located.

Please add the following claim:

13. The system of Claim 1 additionally comprising a hoist mounted on said elongated bridge member for suspending the load over the floor.